

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claim 1 has been amended by deleting polyester resins and polycaprolactone resins from, and correcting “(meth)esteracrylate” to --and (meth)acrylate esters-- in, the polymer dispersant Markush group.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. With entry thereof, Claims 1-16 will remain pending in the application.

REMARKS

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of:

Claims 1-13 and 16 as unpatentable over WO 02/056116, as evidenced by U.S. 2004/0053155 A1 (Emoto et al), combined with U.S. 6,037,090 (Tanaka et al), and

Claims 14 and 15 as unpatentable over U.S. 5,430,526 (Ohkubo et al) combined with Emoto et al and Tanaka et al,

are respectfully traversed.

While Applicants continue to submit that one skilled in the art would not have combined Emoto et al and Tanaka et al without the present disclosure as a guide, but even if combined, the result would not be the presently-claimed invention, for reasons previously discussed, the Examiner finds that the “polyester amide amine salt” of Example 1 of Tanaka et al meets the term “polyester resins”, and that “polycaprolactone derivatives” at column 7, lines 32-34 of Tanaka et al meets the term “polycaprolactone resins”, in the Markush group for the polymer dispersant in then-extant Claim 1 herein. However, the finding is now moot in view of the above-discussed amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claim 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully traversed. Indeed, the rejection is now moot in view of the above-discussed amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The objection to Claim 1 is now moot in view of the above-discussed amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

Regarding paragraph 3 of the Office Action, Applicants continue to maintain that the List of Related Cases was submitted in a proper manner, and that they have complied with their duty of disclosure.

All of the presently-pending claims in this application are now believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Customer Number

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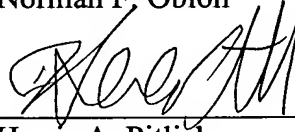
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